

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 166

House concurrent resolution honoring the Civil War-era musical drama *Ransom* on its professional premiere as the opening production of Lost Nation Theater's 25th anniversary season

Offered by: Representatives Jewett of Ripton, Haas of Rochester, Hooper of Montpelier, Kitzmiller of Montpelier, and Taylor of Barre City

Whereas, scavenging through dusty records can lead to amazing discoveries with unanticipated results, and

Whereas, a remarkable discovery occurred when historian Joe Schenkman stumbled upon an intriguing box located in a room filled with dusty records, and

Whereas, when he opened the box, Joe Schenkman discovered the Civil War diaries, letters, and military documents of Lt. Ransom W. Towle of Rochester waiting to be explored, and

Whereas, this treasure trove of intimate writings and supporting records of one Civil War soldier proved an ideal source for the timely creation of a dramatic musical as Vermont commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, and

Whereas, playwright Dick Robson in collaboration with Joe Schenkman, April Dodd, and Ethan Bowen wrote a script incorporating many verbatim passages from the lieutenant's letters as well as the correspondence of other Vermont soldiers, including Lt. Towle's neighbor, Joshua Whitney, who enlisted at age 51, and the wives who tended the home front during this most perilous time, and

Whereas, Dorothy Robson and Jake Wildwood created the musical score consisting of traditional tunes and original songs, and

Whereas, Charlie Martin and Bill McKone of the Vermont 18th Regiment have served as technical advisors in preparing *Ransom* for theatrical presentation, and

Whereas, the White River Valley Players, a community theater company which includes the play's authors, presented the play's debut, and

Whereas, Lost Nation Theater of Montpelier is honored to kick off its 25th anniversary season presenting the professional premiere of *Ransom* with musical accompaniment featuring band leader and pianist Rip Keller, violinist and fiddler Ruth Einstein, flutist and piccolo player Laurel Ann Maurer, and banjoist Tom McKenzie, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the Civil War-era musical drama *Ransom* on its professional premiere as the opening production of Lost Nation Theater's 25th anniversary season, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Lost Nation Theater and to Dick and Dorothy Robson in Hancock.